

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 5, 2003. Claims 23-27 are presented for examination, of which Claims 23, 26, and 27 are in independent form. Claims 23, 24, 26, and 27 have been amended to define what Applicants regard as their invention still more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action states that Claims XXXX are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,859,956 (Sugiyama et al.).

Applicants submit that independent Claims 23, 26 and 27, together with the claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 23 is directed to a data processing apparatus connectable to a LAN. The apparatus of Claim 23 comprises an input unit, adapted to input data, an identification unit, adapted to obtain user information about a user for whom the data inputted by the input unit was received, and a transfer unit, adapted to transfer the inputted data to a terminal connected to the LAN. The apparatus also comprises a generation unit, adapted to generate a predetermined notification, based on the user information obtained by the identification unit, to notify the user that the data has been transferred by the transfer unit. According to Claim 23, the notification sent to the user includes information indicating the terminal to which the data is transferred by the transfer unit. This last-mentioned feature is supported at least by the description on page 18, lines 18-23, in the specification.

Sugiyama relates to information processing in which a determination is made

as to whether it is possible to process a control code that constitutes document information. If the determination is negative, the document information is transferred to another device, which executes the processing as a proxy. Applicants respectfully point out, however, that in Fig. 76 of *Sugiyama*, indication is merely provided that the data is outputted to "another printer". Applicants submit that nothing in *Sugiyama* would teach or suggest any arrangement in which a user would be provided with an indication also as to which terminal the document has been transferred to, as recited in Claim 23.¹

For at least that reason, Applicants submit that Claim 23 is clearly allowable over *Sugiyama*.

Independent Claims 26 and 27 are, respectively, a method and a memory-medium claim, corresponding to apparatus Claim 23, and are therefore believed to be allowable over *Sugiyama* for substantially the same reasons as is Claim 23.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from independent Claim 23, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

¹ Applicants note, also, that *Sugiyama*, which is commonly-assigned with the present applicaiton, and was commonly-assigned at the time the present invention was made, is not available as prior art against the present application under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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